

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 1 1. A system comprising:
2 a first system for issuing scrip, the scrip including a value identifying a
3 recipient of the scrip; and
4 a second system in communication with the first system for issuing a refund
5 for the scrip issued by the first system, the second system adapted to
6 use the value identifying the recipient of the scrip to verify the
7 recipient of the refund.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a third system in communication with the first and second systems for
3 receiving the scrip including the value identifying the recipient of the
4 scrip from the first system and for receiving the refund for the scrip
5 from the second system.
- 1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the third system is adapted to store one or
2 more nonces utilized to create the value in the scrip identifying the recipient of the scrip.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the first system is adapted to receive
2 information identifying the recipient of the scrip prior to issuing the scrip to the recipient.
- 1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the first system is further adapted to hash
2 the received information identifying the recipient with a nonce and store the hash in the
3 issued scrip.
- 1 6. The system of claim 5, wherein the received information identifying the
2 recipient is a hash of identifying information with a second nonce.
- 1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the second system is further adapted to
2 receive from the recipient of the scrip identity information and at least one nonce for
3 deriving the value identifying the recipient of the scrip.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of receiving the information identifying the first party and instructions for deriving the first value from the identifying information comprises the steps of:

receiving, by the second party, information uniquely identifying the first party; and

6 receiving, by second party, at least one nonce with which the information
7 uniquely identifying the first party is hashed to produce the second
8 value.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the information identifying the first
2 party includes a predetermined value.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the predetermined value is a text string.

1 15. ~~The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:~~
2 ~~issuing, by the second party to the first party, a refund coupon entitling the~~
3 ~~first party to a refund for the electronic currency.~~

1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving, by a third party from the first party, the refund coupon and the
3 electronic currency for which the first party seeks a refund;
4 receiving, by the third party from the first party, an identification value for
5 electronic currency previously issued by the third party; and
6 issuing, by the third party to the first party, electronic currency having the
7 provided identification value.

8 17. A computer readable medium having computer instructions encoded
9 thereon for directing a computer system to provide a refund in an electronic commerce
10 system, the computer instructions comprising instructions for:
11 receiving a request to refund electronic currency, the electronic currency
12 including a value identifying the party to whom the currency was
13 issued;
14 receiving identifying information identifying the party seeking the refund;
15 verifying that the received identifying information matches the value in the
16 electronic currency identifying the party to whom the electronic
17 currency was issued; and
18 responsive to a positive verification, entitling the party to whom the electronic
19 currency was issued to a refund for the electronic currency.

1 18. The computer readable medium of claim 17, further comprising
2 instructions for:
3 receiving values to be utilized for transforming the information identifying the
4 party seeking the refund into the value identifying the party to whom
5 the currency was issued.

1 19. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the instructions for
2 receiving values comprise instructions for:
3 receiving one or more nonces with which the information identifying the party
4 seeking the refund is hashed to produce the value identifying the party
5 to whom the currency was issued.

1 20. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein the instructions for
2 entitling the party to whom the currency was issued to a refund for the electronic currency
3 comprise instructions for:
4 issuing a refund coupon to the party seeking the refund;
5 wherein the party seeking the refund can use the refund coupon to refund the
6 electronic currency at a party who issued the electronic currency.

1 21. The computer readable medium of claim 17 further comprising
2 instructions for:
3 receiving electronic currency containing a first value identifying the party to
4 whom the currency was issued;
5 hashing the first value identifying the party to whom the currency was issued
6 with a nonce to form a second value identifying the party to whom the
7 currency was issued; and
8 issuing electronic currency incorporating the second value identifying the
9 party to whom the currency was issued; wherein
10 the received request to refund electronic currency comprises a request to
11 refund the electronic currency incorporating the second value.